

and the landing field no longer simulates an aircraft carrier, not to mention the unbearable noise. And so the Navy is correct in its decision to construct an outlying landing field, but it needs to be in a different location. Our Navy pilots need and deserve a suitable landing field to practice their landings, but the decision to place this field in the middle of a wildlife refuge is ill conceived.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Washington County have challenged the Navy in the Federal courts, and they have won. The District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit decided that environmental impact statements submitted by the Navy are flawed. They do not fully disclose the environmental or safety concerns about the 31,000 annual aircraft landings amid the 20,000 tundra swans and the 65,000 snow geese which winter nearby at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

The citizens of Washington County are determined to prevent this landing field from being constructed in their community. This site puts our navy pilots and our navy aircraft and the community at risk. There are better and safer alternatives, and it is the duty of the Navy to fully explore these possibilities.

Despite the Federal Court order, and despite the language in the 2006 Military Construction Appropriations bill directing the Navy to look at alternative sites, the Navy's Chief of Naval Operations recently admitted during a House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing that the Navy's focus is to make the preferred site work rather than considering other alternatives.

The Navy has failed to fulfill its obligation to engage in a clear, full, fair and objective process carried out in the light of day. This is a \$186 million taxpayer funded project that seeks to remove about 30,000 acres of farmland from the private hands of about 75 families, and we are determined to continue to persuade the Navy to explore alternatives.

North Carolina, Mr. Speaker, has a long and proud history of supporting the Navy, and I certainly want to be a part of continuing that tradition. Our Governor, the Honorable Mike Easley, has diligently worked with the Navy in an effort to find an alternative site, and other Members of Congress from North Carolina have also offered to find a site. I trust that the U.S. Navy will respect the people of Washington County, respect the environment that we all treasure, and respect the rule of law. That landing field, Mr. Speaker, needs to be constructed at one of the alternative sites in eastern North Carolina and not in Washington County.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY WARRIORS

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the Winona State University Warriors. They won the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship last weekend.

Winona State is famous for many things, but this historic win is the first major championship for Winona State and a milestone for WSU athletics. On behalf of basketball fans across southern Minnesota, I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and everyone who helped make this season so special.

Permit me to congratulate Coach Mike Leaf and his staff on an outstanding season. His squad finished with a record of 34-2, winning 22 consecutive games to close out the year. Coach Leaf was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference's Coach of the Year for his efforts.

The warriors, like all champions, won as a team, but they were led by a couple of outstanding players. David Zellman, a senior from Lewiston, Minnesota, ended his college career in style. He led the team in scoring with 26 points in the championship game, including seven three-point baskets. Sophomore John Smith of Johnsbury, Illinois, led the Warriors defensively and was named the NCAA Division II Elite Eight Tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

I congratulate family, friends, and fans of the team. Two busloads of Warrior supporters made the 22-hour trip to the championship game and cheered the team on to victory. They were joined by hundreds of other Warrior fans, alumni and family members of the Warrior athletes who made their own way to the game. And thousands, like myself and my wife, were watching on TV.

Some succeed, Mr. Speaker, because they are destined to. Most succeed because they are determined to. This team worked hard, played defense, shared the ball, and stuck together. They were rewarded with a well-deserved championship that all of us can be proud of.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know, as we have heard on this floor tonight, Americans are paying attention to the illegal immigration issue and all of us here have received call after call after call from our constituents. And, you know, they are not asking much. They simply want us to enforce our border security. And, Mr. Speaker, I agree with this. This is not some earth-shattering policy change, it is a matter of enforcing the laws that are on our books.

Republicans passed legislation to strengthen the border late last year, and we did it with very little Democratic support. That has to change. An overwhelming majority of Americans believe the lawlessness and the disregard for our laws inherent in illegal immigration is damaging to our society and a serious, serious risk to our national security.

We have watched some try to equate legal immigration and legal immigrants with those whose first act, their very first act coming into this country is breaking a law.

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It is breaking our law by running across the border. That is an insult to every individual who complied with our policies and followed the appropriate process to get here. For too long we have overlooked or even rewarded those who broke the law, and it is time for that to stop. It has to stop.

I want to share with you something one of my constituents asked me in a meeting while we were on our break. He said "Marsha, I hear that some of the people in Washington want to provide amnesty to those who are breaking our immigration laws, to those who are illegally entering our country." He said, if you are going to let people pick and choose and decide which laws they want to have amnesty from, then I